



Development Equation: a Framework for Supporting Development through the Use of Open Solutions (OSs)

Moustapha Diack

Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA
Director, MERLOT Africa Network (MAN)

moustapha.Diack@subr.edu

225 – 771 2028



Overview

- Educational Issues in Africa
- **Open** Solutions
- The Development Equation
- The MERLOT Africa Network
- Acknowledgements



Educational Issues and Developing Economies

..Currently, there are many problems in the higher education systems in developing countries that need to be tackled immediately. Some of the more pressing issues are: the paucity of high quality teachers, **inadequate infrastructure of the universities and more specifically their libraries**, and the poor quality of educational resources utilized at the various universities and colleges.

National Knowledge Commission

2008 Report to the India Ministry of Education



Solutions

- Increase the availability of **Free** and **Open** Education Resources (OER)
Use your own Definition
- **Promote free access to Scientific literature through Open Access (OA) publication**



Open Solutions

eLearning tools developed based on the view that **knowledge and the technologies that facilitate its acquisition and redistribution should be free and open for use**, to promote universal access to education, training and economic development.

- Open Education Resources (OER)
- Open Access to Scientific Publication (OASP)
- Open Access Textbook (OATB)
- Software Tools
- Implementation Resources (IP + K4D)



Levels of Openness

Social

- Freedom
- Copyright
- Accessibility
- Global
-

Technical

- Interoperability
- Standards
-
-

Learning Design

- Open Format
- Open Software
- Localization
- Bandwidth

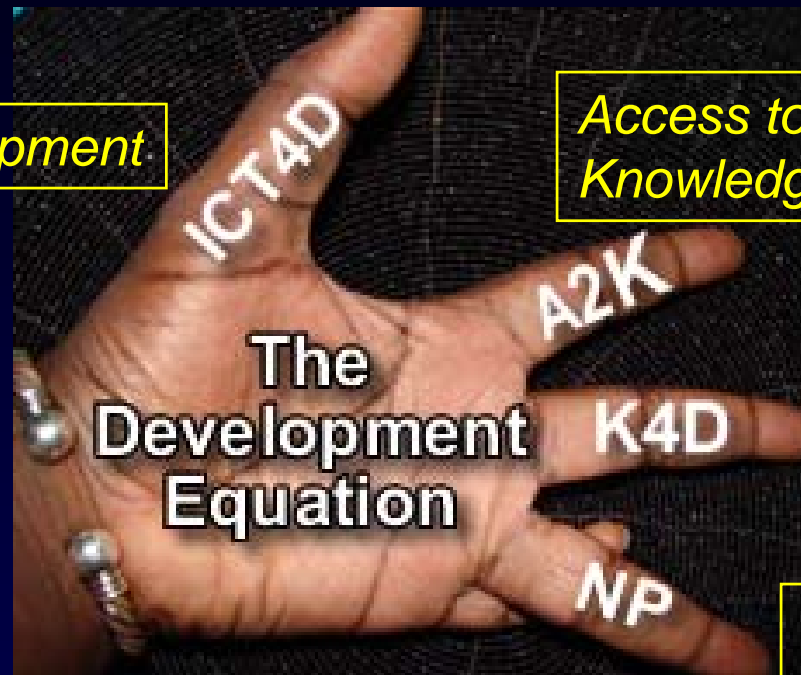
Freedom of Use

Modification/Repackaging



Pre-conditions to Deploying OSs Solving the Development Equation

ICT For Development



*Access to
Knowledge*

*Knowledge for
Development*

*Networked
Partnership*

$$f(\text{ICT4D}, \text{A2K}, \text{K4D}) + \text{NP}$$

http://wikieducator.org/Learning_and_Knowledge_in_the_21st_Century:_The_Development_Equation

M. Diack/**Open Sesame Panel:** [Open Software and Open Resources—Does it help Higher Education](#)
14th Sloan-C International Conference on Online Learning –Orlando Florida, Nov -5-7, 2008



MERLOT AFRICA NETWORK

Build strong networked partnerships between African, US educational institutions and global eLearning providers that will result in joint education, research and development programs in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Extend the MERLOT Community of Practice to immediately serve the goals of providing access and quality eLearning resources and communities of eLearning expertise in Africa.

Build African expertise in the successful use and development of Open Education Resources (OER) and Open Access (OA) to support scalable eLearning curricula and scholarship.

Conduct educational research to guide the effective and sustainable pedagogical integration of OER and OA in eLearning design and research.

Organize expert meetings for sharing best practices, and social networking to improve the productivity and leadership of collaborative projects among members.

<http://man.merlot.org>



MAN – African Network

AFRICAN NETWORK

[AAU](#) (Ethiopia)
[UCAD](#) (Senegal)
[CNTEMAD](#) (Madagascar)
[INITELEMATIQUE](#) (Burundi)
[NATIONAL U RWANDA](#) (Rwanda)
[MBARA UNIVERSITY](#) (Uganda)
[MSTC- GAMBIA](#) (Gambia)
[AFRICA VIRTUAL UNIV – ORG](#)
[ERNWACA – ORG](#)
[QEDOC – ORG](#)
[eLearning Africa- ORG](#)

JOINING MAN: Benefits

MAN is an effort to initiate a dynamic international collaboration and network between African Higher Education Institutions (AHEIs) affiliated with MERLOT and US higher education institution members of the MERLOT Community to investigate best practices for integrating digital e-learning repositories in classroom instruction and to promote the adoption of e-learning repositories to support education in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). MAN institutions will sign a memorandum of understanding with the MERLOT organization to (1) gain full access to the MERLOT professional communities of practice as well as the MERLOT e-learning repository to support their current e-learning plans; (2) Benefit from innovative faculty development programs and cross-cultural forum aiming to assess and promote e-learning program development at the member institutions; (3) contribute to the MERLOT repository collection through site submission and online resource development and; (4) contribute to the scholarship of teaching and learning as well as the dissemination of best practices resulting from the project implementation. MAN institutions will use the MERLOT International Conference (MIC) and the e-learning Africa International conferences as hub and forums for discussion and dissemination of best practices.

HOW TO JOIN MAN: Three-steps Process

Joining MAN is a simple three-steps process including first, joining the MERLOT organization as individual, filling out and submitting an institutional membership survey and finally facilitating the signing of a memorandum of Understanding with your organization. The steps are discussed below.

STEP 1: Become a MERLOT member for free

Individual membership to MERLOT is free. Membership login ID and Password is automatically created that enables you to have full access the MERLOT e-learning repository and professional community of practices.

[Join MERLOT now.](#) During the process of joining you are required to take the time to complete your membership profile. As a new member of our community you will be able to:

- Have full access to all multimedia learning resources of MERLOT
- Have access to e-learning expertises for your professional development
- Contribute learning materials
- Create a personal collection
- Develop a personal profile
- Share your online expertise
- Receive peer recognition

STEP 2: Fill out the Institutional Application Survey for

<http://man.merlot.org>

M. Diack/Open Sesame Panel: Open Software and Open Resources—Does it help Higher Education
 14th Pan-African Forum on OER and OA in Mainz, 28, 29 and 30 April 2008, Accra, Ghana, West Africa, 2008

14th Pan-African Conference on Oral Care and Oral Health, 28-29 May 2008, Accra, Ghana, West Africa, 2008



MAN INITIATIVES:

Promoting the adoption and deployment of Open Solutions



(1) The Leadership Award for significant contribution in advancing and fostering understanding of issues and innovations in OER and the OER movement

(2) The Virtual Laboratory Award for exemplary teaching and learning resources that promote inquiry-based or discovery learning

(3) Software for OER Content Authoring Award



Thank you !
Moustapha_diack@subr.edu

Acknowledgement:

Arif Jinha - MA student - Globalization and
International Development -University of Ottawa